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‘Bad Driver Law,’ fee fixed, provides reimbursement to motorists already fined

Lansing – Legislation waiving a \$300 fee for motorists who fail to show proof of insurance when pulled over has been sent to the House for concurrence, Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores, announced today.

“These fees are unfair to motorists with valid insurance,” Van Woerkom said. “This legislation simply corrects an unintended consequence from passing the bad-driver law.”

Van Woerkom also is encouraged to hear the governor supports this legislation.

“I’m happy to hear she is in support of this bill,” Van Woerkom said. “I’m certain motorists throughout Michigan will be relieved when this legislation is signed into law.”

As amended, the bill:

- Allows a driver to appear prior to the appearance date on the citation and show proof that they had auto insurance at the time of the violation. If they do this, no Driver Responsibility fees may be levied.
- Provides for reimbursement of drivers already assessed. The legislation allows drivers to appear in court within 60 days and appeal the court’s ruling that resulted in the assessment being charged in the first place. If drivers prove they had insurance, the fees will be refunded by the Secretary of State.

Van Woerkom noted that the legislation does not remove the civil infraction for failure to show proof of insurance. This civil infraction has been on the books for years, long before the Driver Responsibility Act.

Courts may still assess a \$25 fee for tickets issued, even if a driver appears in court with proof of insurance.

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